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 United Church of Christ  
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**MODERATOR'S MESSAGE**



**WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, NOT ANYTHING TO DRINK!!**

This month I will be more direct with my thoughts on living in today's rapidly changing world. Technology has exploded in the past few years with Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking the forefront in almost all we do. This AI Revolution has been quietly building in the background for decades as computer systems and telecommunication developers learned they could use information that we freely offered while using their products to predict our behavior and decisions. Behind the scenes all this gathered information has been used to determine what services and products we will buy and what habits we will follow in our daily lives. The results have been startling! So much information has been gathered that entire product lines have been created for the vehicles we drive, the food we eat, and the clothes we wear. Even medicine and health are now being used by AI to treat different ailments and diseases. As a matter of fact, the truth is that nothing we do today in this connected world is untouched by this prediction technology including how we worship God and how we follow the Bible's teachings. Anything you want to know about the Bible, even the slightest detail, can be found by simply asking your smart phone or computer a question. For example, I asked my computer this question: **"How do I get to Heaven?"** The AI answer... *"According to Christian belief, you get to heaven by accepting God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works. This involves recognizing personal sin, believing that Jesus died for those sins and was resurrected, and repenting (turning away from sin) to follow Him. Salvation is a free gift received through grace."* I think we will all agree that this is a very straightforward and easy to understand answer. I then asked a second question: **"Am I going to Heaven?"** The AI answer... *"According to Christian theology, salvation and entry into heaven are not earned through good works, but are a free gift received by placing faith in Jesus Christ. It is considered possible to know for sure that you are going to heaven by repenting of sins, accepting Jesus' sacrifice, and trusting in Him as Savior."* to the end.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**In this Issue:**

Moderator's Message	1
Operations & Finance Team Report	2
The Gift & Thrift Store, Special Offering, Food Basket Sunday, Fellowship	3
Birthdays /Anniversaries & Prayer Concerns	4
Calendar	5

**Staff**

- Moderator:**  
Bob Brewster
- Office Manager:**  
Kathy Shaffner
- Custodian:**  
Ronnie Servant
- Organist/Pianist:**  
Daniel Weimer
- Missions**  
Jackie Gaither
- Thrift Store Managers**  
Rachel Sitepu
- Media Communications:**  
Bob Brewster

**So, what is the point here?** Are we now supposed to live life by asking our computer or smartphone a question about what to do in Life? Are we turning control of our lives over to an unknown voice in the universe of technology and following what it tells us? **The real answer is very simple.** The Bible has been here with us all along for thousands of years. It has been the voice for following a path of faith. A path of faith in Jesus and that he came to Earth to both warn and guide us about what our path should be. *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). Regardless of the technological age or the times we are living in, the answers have already been given to us. The Bible does not rely on any man-made system for answers. The Bible has been there all along, yet we find many people who have never read it, never studied its teachings, or perhaps worse have never understood how it is the **Basic Instruction Manual Before Leaving Earth**. Pastor Javier Leon has been telling us every Sunday that this should be our guide. Yet many people do not listen. The Bible’s teachings have been with us all along. Surrounding us with the lessons taught to us by Jesus. Yet we live our lives with only occasional thoughts about these teachings. Perhaps for some, this is only on Sundays or when reminded by another person to follow the Bible. The Bible surrounds us with what to do every day, all day. Unlike a salty ocean that surrounds a boat where there is water, water everywhere, but not anything to drink, the Bible surrounds us with knowledge in how to live life and offers us an abundance “to drink” that we can use throughout life all the way Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



Welcome to March, Spring and hopefully warmer temperatures. Along with everyone else, the recent cold snaps wreaked havoc with the plantings in the front of the Sanctuary. Thanks to Steve Burton and his crew, it been cleared and replanted. No issues with the facilities’ interiors and we pray that continues.

### Operating Budget to Actual as of 1/31/2026

	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	12,432.67	12,432.67	16,099.01	(3,666.34)
Expenses	<u>10,143.84</u>	<u>10,143.84</u>	<u>14,304.19</u>	(4,160.35)
Profit/(Loss)	2,288.83	2,288.83	1,794.82	494.01

### CD & MM Income as of 1/31/2026

YTD Interest  
Income: 198.35



Combined Profit/(Loss) 2,487.18

We had a profit of \$2,288.83 for the month of January and had a combined profit of \$2,487.18 which include the interest on the CD and Money Market accounts. As always our thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

*Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton, Treasurer*

## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Church Family,

It's been a wonderful week. We received so many donations. We have the opportunities to bless others by giving back to the communities. We are blessed to be able to help some customers who are in need and to donate dozens of diapers and other stuff for a child with a disability. A couple of customers walked in and asked me to pray for them for their upcoming surgeries.

Here some of my favorite quotes that I would like to share: Two rules for staying mentally healthy as we age. "Rule 1: Wake up every morning knowing what you are going to do that day. Rule 2: Go to bed every night knowing that you helped someone. Blessings, *Rachel Sitepu, Manager*

## MISSION NOTE

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2026 CAMPAIGN - ONE GREAT OFFERING FOR THE WORLD - MARCH 15TH.** Through the OGHS offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities world-wide: providing education to girls and boys, and participating in solutions that offer dignity to all. Envelopes for this offering are in your boxed set.



## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **March 1st is our next collection day.** Over 20 bags of food were collected last month which benefited a local food pantry. Thanks to Ruth Brewster for delivering the food. **Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.**

## SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room.

*Our Next Dinner is Thursday, March 12h.  
It's a "Pot luck" Dinner.  
Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.*



***DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH.***

# Lent



Happy Birthday!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS\*

Sharon Williamson	3/4
Denise Gates	3/21



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES\*

Richard & Vivien Devins	3/24/1984
Chuck & Erika Henderson	3/25/1972



## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Larry & Susan Belzac	Canadian Friends of Shelia Fisher
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Ingrid Claunch	Member of POUCC
Steve Grant	Member of POUCC
Erica Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Chuck Konopsky	Member of POUCC
Jose León	Father of Pastor Javier
Pastor Yarisis León	Member of POUCC
Potenza Family Members	Family of Denise & Don Gates
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Lydia Nevarez	Mother of Pastor Javier
Bob Traver	Friend of the Brewster's

### In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing    Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)

### Special

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families  
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide  
Those recovering from the California wildfires.



Note: \*Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date and with your Prayer Requests.

# POUCC MARCH 2026

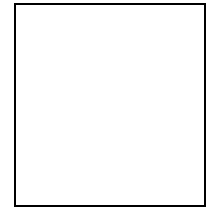
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 3:00 pm	2 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	3 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	4 Grief Share 7:00 pm	5 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	6	7 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
8Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL* Worship Service 3:00 pm	9 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	10 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	11 Grief Share 7:00 pm	12 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	13	14 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
15Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 3:00 pm	16 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	11 Weight Watchers 9:30 am 	18 Grief Share 7:00 pm	19 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	20 	21Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am Council Meeting 10:00 am
22Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL* Worship Service 3:00 pm	23 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	24 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	25 Grief Share 7:00 pm	26 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	27	28 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
29Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 3:00 pm	30 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	31 Weight Watchers 9:30 am		*Mountain of Light Church		

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 2 pm First Two Saturdays of the Month 9 am – Noon*

*Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*



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**Gift & Thrift Store Managers:** Rachel Sitepu  
**Media Communications:** Bob Brewster

**Office Hours**

9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Thrift Store Hours**

9:00 AM—2:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**First Two Saturdays**

**of the month**

9:00 AM-Noon

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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